

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
REGISTRATION SERVICE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

FULL NAME Rev. Donald J. Hebert

DATE: 9/14/90

S.S. NO. _____

(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS _____

CITY Baltimore STATE MD ZIP CODE 20023

Previous address: _____ Syracuse, NY 13207

DATE OF BIRTH April 1948 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE 41 or 42 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION Catholic NATIONALITY (Citizen of) USA

OCCUPATION Roman Catholic Priest

EDUCATION _____

WEIGHT Approx. 185 lbs HEIGHT Approx. 5'8" RACE Caucasian

COLOR OF HAIR Brown/Grey COLOR OF EYES _____

ANY DISTINGUISHING PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS _____

HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS _____

MARRIED ☐ SINGLE ☒ NAME OF SPOUSE _____

CHILDREN _____

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS: (Name, number, ages, if possible)

| UNIT # | CITY | STATE | POSITION | DATE REGISTERED | DATE RESIGNED |
|--------|------|-------|----------|-----------------|---------------|
|--------|------|-------|----------|-----------------|---------------|

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|-------|----------|----|----|------|--|
| TR 87 | Syracuse | NY | CC | 1986 | |
|-------|----------|----|----|------|--|

Also - Diocesan Catholic Committee Chaplain
Chartered Organization Most Holy Rosary Church

SPECIAL RECOGNITION _____

INCIDENT: TYPE 1 & 2 DATE OF INCIDENT Aug. 1990 RESOLUTION Resolution

1=Scout Related

2=Non-scout related

3=homosexual (not specifically with youth)

1. Internal (only Scouts Know)
2. Criminal action
3. Court action
4. Probationary status
5. Reported to state agency

Check off list of attached documentation

1. Description of incident
2. Victim(s) statement APR 01 1991
3. media reports
4. Legal proceedings JOSEPH L. AUGER
5. Offender's statement
6. Official notification of termination
7. Found guilty/innocent by court

Council Hiawatha #373

Signed _____

3878-260-11/3/88

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

SEP 25 1990

F. STARON

CONFIDENTIAL

April 2, 1991

Mr. William J. Morgan
Scout Executive
Hiawatha Council, No. 373

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: REV. DONALD J. HEBERT

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Ineligible Volunteer File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration and Statistical Service

eko

cc: Charles D. Ball, Northeast Region

READY FOR FILE
APR 03 1991
ERIN ORILEY



HIAWATHA COUNCIL, INC.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

600 WEST GENESEE STREET
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13204-2380
(315) 474-8574

January 31, 1991

Mr. Paul Ernst, Director
Registration & Subscription Service
Boy Scouts of America
P. O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Rev. Donald J. Hebert

Dear Paul:

In reference to the above named individual, we have no additional information to add to the file at this time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William J. Moran
Scout Executive

wjm/mz

cc: Charles D. Ball

READY FOR FILE

JAN 25 1991

BARBARA GOSEY

January 25, 1991

Mr. William J. Moran
Scout Executive
Hiawatha Council, No. 373

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: REV. DONALD J. HERBERT

Dear Bill:

I hate to bother you again, but wondered if anything further had occurred related to the above named individual. If there has been any legal action, we would like to have the outcome. If there are to be no charges filed, please write us a letter indicating that so we can close our file.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration and Statistical Service

bg

cc: Charles Ball, Northeast Region

A. GRAVES

OCT 04 1990

READY FOR FILE

October 4, 1990

Mr. Lawrence A. Bystran
Assistant Scout Executive
Hiawatha Council, No. 373

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: REV. DONALD J. HERBERT

Dear Larry:

Thank you for all the material on the above named individual. This is most helpful as we start a file which will lead to refusal of registration in the future.

I believe we have everything we need unless there are to be legal charges filed. If there are, we would like the outcome of the legal action once it has been completed.

Please let us know the direction this is going. If there is to be no legal action, we would like a letter indicating that. This would then close our file.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration and Statistical Service

ag

cc: Northeast Region
William J. Moran, Council No. 373



HIAWATHA COUNCIL, INC.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

600 WEST CENESEE STREET
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13204-2380
(315) 474-8574

September 14, 1990

Rev. Donald J. Hebert

[REDACTED]
Suitland, MD 20023

Dear Rev. Hebert:


After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be denied. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with the Boy Scouts of America.

You should understand that BSA membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to refuse registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not meet the high standards of membership which the BSA seeks to provide for American youth.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed by a BSA Regional Review Committee, please write to the Regional Director within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA member should be reinstated. The procedures for a review of this decision are attached.

Sincerely,

lab/mz
Enclosure


Lawrence A. Bystrian
Assistant Scout Executive

Boy abused by priest seeing psychologist at diocese expense

By Charles Miller
Staff Writer

A 14-year-old boy who said he hasn't been able to sleep since he was sexually abused by his priest and Boy Scout leader is receiving psychological treatment paid for by the Syracuse Catholic Diocese.

"They said, 'Go to this doctor and don't worry about paying for it,'" the boy's mother said. "I don't think it's done any good whatsoever. In fact, I think it's done more bad than good."

The priest also is undergoing treatment. The Rev. Donald C. Hebert, formerly of Most Holy Rosary Church, is at St. Luke's Institute, a Catholic psychiatric hospital in Suitland, Md. He said he checked into the hospital after apologizing to the family for fondling the boy during an overnight stay at a camp in Parish.

The Rev. Jeffrey Keefe, a clinical psychologist who works for the diocese, went with Hebert to apologize to the boy and his family last month. He said the diocese is paying for the boy's sessions with Dr. Dennis L. Bogin, a Syracuse psychologist.

It was after one of those sessions that Bogin told police the boy might also have been abused by his Boy Scout leader, Robert G. Prior, 67, of 1510 Stolp Ave. Prior was charged last week with sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child.

In a statement to police, the boy said he was molested by the scout leader last month in Syracuse and by the priest, who coordinated di-

cesan activities with the Scouts, a week later.

"I wanted to grab his keys and drive away and get the police," the teen-ager said Saturday. "I just want to forget about what happened, but it's really hard. I can't get it out of my mind; I can't even sleep at night."

Prior has been involved with the Boy Scout troop for 27 years, 18 years as troop's Scoutmaster. He said he would resign from Scouting because of the arrest.

He told police he has touched several boys over the years, and admitted two incidents with the teen-ager.

The charges did not surprise Police Sgt. Timothy Erwin, who arrested Prior. Erwin was in Prior's troop 25 years ago.

While Prior was a "wonderful Scout leader and person," children often suspected him of sexual misconduct, Erwin said.

"Nobody wanted Mr. Prior to come into the tent to tuck you in," he said after handling the criminal case against his former Scout leader. "He was always tickling us and doing some peculiar things."

Westhill School officials on Friday suspended Prior from his bus-driving job.

The boy's parents said they hope others will go to police if they have been sexually abused by Prior. Erwin said such incidents should be reported to the department's youth division.

The Rev. Michael Carmola, vicar for the diocese priest personnel, would not say whether the Diocese is investigating other incidents involving Hebert.

Patrick Lakamp
and Charles Miller
are the
Staff Writers

A Boy Scout leader was charged with sexual abuse and a priest was charged with sexual abuse after a teen-age boy told police he was abused by the pair.

Syracuse police accused scout leader Robert G. Prior, 67, of 1510 Chip Ave. of fondling the boy last month in Syracuse. Prior is a school bus driver for the Westhill Central School District.

The boy also told police he was fondled by the Rev. Donald C. Hebert, formerly of Most Holy Rosary Church, during an overnight stay at a camp a week later.

The boy and his mother said they did not press charges against Hebert because he apologized to them.

The psychologist declined to comment. Diocesan officials did not return phone calls today.

Hebert is being treated at St. Luke's Institute, a Catholic psychiatric hospital in Suttland, Mary-

land. When contacted today by telephone, he was unaware he had been named in the boy's police statement and he said he did not know Prior had been charged.

"The whole thing is tragic. I hope everything works out for Mr. Prior and the child," Hebert said from the hospital. "I'm here trying to work out my problems. I'm really sorry."

The victim's mother said her son wanted to press charges until Hebert apologized. When the diocese told the family Hebert was

going to be treated, the boy changed his mind, she said.

"He'll have to live with this for the rest of his life," the mother said today. "All I know is Father Don is going to be away for a long time. I don't hate him, but I hate what he did. If this happened to any other boys, I hope they come forward like we did."

Prior is accused of pulling the boy into a car by the shirt, rubbing his stomach and fondling his genital area.

■ SCOUT LEADER, Page A9

Syracuse Herald-Journal, Friday, September 14, 1990 A9

Scout leader accused of abusing boy

■ SCOUT LEADER

Continued from Page A1

tals from the outside of his pants. Prior, an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop No. 87 and its former scoutmaster, denied the boy's charge.

He told police he has touched several boys over the years, and admitted another sexual contact with the teen-ager.

In a sworn statement, he told police he touched the boy's genitalia during a scouting trip in 1989 at Lourdes Camp in Skaneateles. In his statement, Prior said he had become sexually aroused at the time.

"It was a 'You show me, I show you' type of thing," Prior said in a telephone interview today. "I don't feel there's any sexual harassment. It's blown out of proportion. It's ruining my reputation."

Before the 1989 incident, Prior said, he had had no sexual contact with boys for 12 years.

"I thought I had taken care of my problem until that night with (the boy)," Prior told police.

He said today his problem is under control: "I don't have a problem anymore. I don't have a problem with boys."

Until today, Prior drove a bus for the Westhill School District. School officials suspended him this morning indefinitely. Prior said he would be resigning from scouting.

"How can I not leave scouting? How can I drive a bus full of children?" he said. "You can't have someone charged with sexual abuse involved with those things. That hurts me because I love what I do."

Prior said the boy asked him to touch his genital area.

"He perpetuated the whole thing," Prior said. "I was a little glib. I admit I made a mistake. Be that as it may, I did not abuse the boy. It was a touch, but it was no abuse."

Prior is a retired building and grounds superintendent at Bishop Ludden High School. He has been involved with the Boy Scout troop for 27 years. He served as the troop's scoutmaster for 18 years.

"I've done a lot of positive things with scouting," he said.

He faces charges of third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, both misdemeanors. The endangering charge, the more serious of the two, carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail.

Police issued Prior an appearance ticket to appear in City Court next Thursday. He is free on his own recognizance.

"This is just a minor misdemeanor charge," Prior said. "It's really not what it's cracked up to be. I don't want my name in the paper. I got a life to lead. It's hurting me, and it's hurting my family."

Prior is married and has four children and nine grandchildren, who he said "are standing behind me all the way."

Prior was arrested after the boy told his doctor about the incident. He said occurred in Syracuse last month.

Police interviewed the boy at his school. In a statement, the boy described what happened.

"Mr. Prior was sitting in the car in the driver's seat," the statement said. "Mr. Prior said come here and he grabbed me by my ... shirt. It was just before the State Fair started. He pulled me over to his car. He started rubbing my stomach and said he could do a lot better things than Father Don could do. Mr. Prior started rubbing my penis with his hand on the outside of my pants for a minute. I got mad, I was going to hit him but I didn't. Mr. Prior is big and strong. I jerked myself away from him and borrowed a kid's bike and went home."

The boy said he did not tell his mother everything that happened, but he later told his counselor.

Both the boy and Prior told an officer assigned to the Syracuse Police Department's child abuse unit of the incident at the camp.

In his version to police, Prior said the youth had first asked to sleep with him.

The boy told police he also was abused by the priest.

"Father Don picked me up Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the morning. ... It was near the end of August 1990. When we got to the camp, we played with the other kids. Later on in the night, when I went to sleep, Father Don put his cot next to mine. At about 12 (midnight) Father Don reached under the covers and rubbed my penis. I told him to stop, and he did. He asked if it felt good, and I told him no."

Mom: Son Recovering From Sexual Abuse

By RICK MORIARTY
The Post-Standard

A Syracuse woman says the Boy Scout leader charged with sexually abusing her teen-age son seemed like a nice guy who worked well with children.

"He didn't seem like a bad guy to me," she said Friday. "He enjoyed being with the kids. It makes it harder for me because I knew him."

The scout leader, Robert G. Prior, 67, of 1510 Stoip Ave., was charged Thursday with third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, both misdemeanors.

Prior had been a member of Boy Scout Troop 87 for 27 years and a scoutmaster for 18 of those years. Following his arrest, he resigned from the troop and was suspended from his job as a part-time bus driver for the Westhill School District.

Police alleged that Prior touched the boy's genitals through the boy's pants during a Boy Scout car wash

at a South Geddes Street gas station this summer.

The teen-ager's mother said her son is recovering from the emotional trauma of the incident.

"He's doing pretty good now," she said. "I told him, 'You've got to get on with your life.'"

Prior, through his wife, said Friday his attorney advised him not to speak publicly about the incident.

In a statement to police, Prior denied sexually abusing the boy at the gas station. However, he told police he touched the boy's genitals at the boy's request during a troop outing at Lourdes Camp in Spafford.

The boy's mother said a priest who worked with the troop also sexually abused her son. That incident occurred at the priest's camp in Parish in late August, she said.

The priest, who is now undergoing counseling at a Catholic psychiatric center in Maryland, immediately reported the incident to other priests and apologized to the boy, the child's mother said. The priest has not been charged.

9/15/90

9-17-90

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REV. DONALD HEBERT
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SEXUAL MOLESTATION OF SCOT

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ZIP: 13207

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ADDR2: SYRACUSE

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ZIP: 13207

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